

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

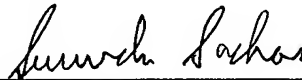
The Communication of December 29, 2005 indicated the response filed October 20, 2005 was non-responsive as "the reply fails to present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render newly presented claims 22 and 23 patentable over the applied references".

In reply to that Communication, applicants note claims 22 and 23 are dependent claims that depend on respective independent claims 9 and 15. Applicants previously presented arguments as to why independent claims 9 and 15 distinguish over the applied art, and applicants note claims 22 and 23 are allowable for at least those reasons.

Applicants respectfully believe the reply filed October 20, 2005 was in fact fully responsive, and applicants now respectfully request further prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTYSNS\21'S\217636\217636US-RESPONSE.DOC